

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1
FIRST QUARTER
2009—2010

Coyote Howler

You're in Coyote Country!



A Publication of J.O. Combs High School and Eighth Grade Academy
2505 E. Germann Road, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

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Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

I would like to start off by making a commitment to you. Student achievement will rest at the heart of every effort we make during this 2009-2010 school year. We want our students and parents to join us in this endeavor. We understand that student achievement is a broad goal. So, to better achieve this objective, we have narrowed our focus to three Big Ideas to better ensure that our students are successful.

- Big Idea number one is ENSURING THAT STUDENTS LEARN. We are shifting our focus from teaching to learning. To this end, our teachers are pledging to work towards the success of each student. One approach for accomplishing this will be to ask ourselves three important questions in every instructional situation: (1) What do we want each student to learn? (2) How will we know when each student has learned it? (3) How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning? The answers to these questions will guide our decisions and methods of instruction.
- Big Idea number two is BUILDING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION. We are working on a systematic process where teachers work together to analyze and improve their classroom practices. Our teachers are working in teams and departments, engaging in an ongoing cycle of communication to improve the curriculum and daily instruction.
- Big Idea number three is FOCUSING ON RESULTS. It is our responsibility to turn data into useful and relevant information that we can use to improve instruction. Data collected from formative and summative assessments, and anecdotal records kept on students will become a catalyst for improving teaching strategies.



Brenda Mayberry
Principal

We are also aware that the organization of a student's school day is connected to academic success. Our Block Schedule has allowed us to establish within the student's schedule, time for them to access their teachers for tutoring, and help with test preparation, research papers, questions and assignments. They may also use this time at the library, in a computer lab, or to work on group projects. This time is their time as long as they use it to do something academic in nature. This program is called Coyote/Cougar Skills on their schedules, and represents another support mechanism for students to achieve academic success.

The first quarter of this semester has gone extremely well. Students are finding their niches, getting involved in extra-curricular activities and attending school events. We have had our first band concert, many athletic events, a pep assembly, the dedication of the school, and a lip sync contest; these, along with myriad other events. We are into a *groove* that seems to be working for us. In general, we are extremely pleased with the academic progress and behavior of our students. I am very proud of how everyone has teamed together to make the opening of J.O. Combs' first high school an enormous success.

In my ongoing efforts to research and implement effective student achievement practices, I found numerous sources referencing nine essential characteristics of highly effective, high-performing schools. These are the practices which we strive to embed in our ongoing efforts here at Combs; and, these ideas are what I would like to leave you with today.

The Nine Characteristics of Highly-Performing Schools Include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| √ A Clear and Shared Focus | √ Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Aligned with State Standards |
| √ High Standards and Expectations for Students | √ Focused Professional Development |
| √ Effective School Leadership | √ A Supportive Learning Environment |
| √ High Levels of Collaboration and Communication | √ High Levels of Family and Community Involvement |
| √ Frequent Monitoring of Learning and Teaching | |

If you would like to discuss any of the above strategies with me, feel free to email, call or stop by; my door is always open. Indeed, I hope you feel free to speak with me about any items that concern you. I always love to hear about the good things that are happening as well. Educating your children is always first and foremost in my mind. Let me know what I can do to insure your child's success.

Best Regards,
Brenda Mayberry
Principal
Combs High School
Combs Eighth Grade Academy



“Children who are absent two or more days each month achieve 25% less than their peers.”

Attendance

EVERY DAY counts in a child’s education.

This is why it is critical to make sure children are in school all day, everyday. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

Did you know that...

- one out of ten children is absent from school each day.
- daylight juvenile crime decreases by 50% when a community effort keeps children in school.
- children who are absent two or more days each month achieve 25% less than their peers.
- ninety percent of serious juvenile offenders begin as truants.

Aren’t you glad your child is in school today?

Aren’t you glad we care?

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO MISS SCHOOL...

Please call the attendance line at 882-3540 and leave a detailed message explaining the reason for absence. ONLY parents or legal guardians may call the attendance line.

REMEMBER: Students missing ten or more days, excused or unexcused, run the risk of losing high school credit for the course(s) missed.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

- If your student is going to be out more than 3 days, please email the teacher for homework requests. E-mail addresses can be found on the Combs website: <http://www.combscoyotes.org/>
- If you do not have e-mail, please leave a message on the attendance line.
- Homework requested from the teacher can be picked up in the front office.

Staff Directory

The J.O. Combs High School and Eighth Grade Academy Staff Directory is now available on the school’s web site. You can access information on staff phone extensions and e-mail addresses by directing your browser to: <http://www.combscoyotes.org/staff.html>

*Take pride in how far you have come,
Have faith in how far you can go.*

Site-Based Council

The Site-Based Council is an elected council that meets in the Combs High School Library on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 5– 6 p.m.

We work closely with the school administrators providing guidance and input in issues vital to the success of the school. We assess the needs of the school and community, determine the most pressing needs, and set priorities for action. While vot-

ing membership is by appointment only, attendance is open to all.

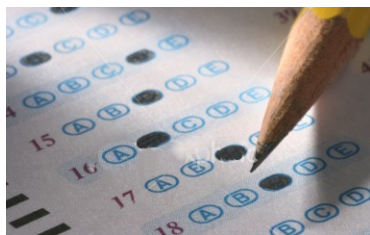
2009-2010 Council

Site council members are as follows: Brenda Mayberry, Dr. Melissa Valenzuela, Ivonne Kroman, Robert Laliberte, Thomas Cook, Wendi Anderson, Kevin Bruney, Briana Gonzales, Tana Whitlock, Andrea Dales, Stacey Berklan, Phil Poisson, Jessica

Research shows that parent involvement has a positive impact on a child’s success in school. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child’s education.

Furman, Maryann Stradling, Myra Gutierrez, Diedra Laborde, Mathew Mender, David Hernandez, Logan Knotts, Gabriel Wells, Jonathan Snyder, Lynne Snyder, Ada Laborde, Kristy Knotts, Russel Bunnin, Adam Raymond, Rosa Umana.

Testing



What is TerraNova?

The TerraNova is a national norm-referenced assessment created by CTB/McGraw-Hill covering language arts and mathematics. It is administered to Arizona public school students in grades 2 and 9 each spring.

What is AIMS?

The Arizona Instrument to Measure Success (AIMS) is a criterion-referenced test with questions developed by Arizona educators and based on the Arizona Academic Standards. It is an assessment of three content areas: writing, reading, and mathematics. It is administered in Arizona public schools each spring. Students in the Eighth Grade Academy and high school tenth graders will be taking the AIMS this spring.

What is Galileo?

Galileo is a form of benchmark testing aligned with the Arizona state-mandated AIMS test. The purpose is to create a frame-

What is Galileo?

work so teachers can plan consistent instruction on the performance objectives tested on AIMS.

Mastery of these Essential Performance Objectives also ensures that students have fundamental knowledge and skills that are necessary for success in the next grade.

See Semester One Calendar below for dates of Galileo testing.

AIMS and TerraNova testing will take place April 7 and 8 for high school, and April 12 through 23 for 8th grade.

Please plan any appointments and/or family vacations around April AIMS and TerraNova testing dates.

**CONGRATULATIONS
KIWANIS
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH.**

Eighth Grade Academy: **Liam McClincy**
High School: **Brandon Sanchez**

Semester One Calendar

August	3	First Day of school
September	7	Labor Day – No School
	8-11	1 st Quarter Progress Reports
	8-21	Galileo Benchmark Testing
October	2	End of 1 st Quarter
	8	Parent/Teacher Conferences—Early Release
	9	Professional Development—Early Release
	12-16	Fall Break
	19	Professional Development—No School
November	11	Veteran’s Day—No School
	12-17	2nd Quarter Progress Reports
	25	Early Release
		High School dismissal @ 12:00 pm
		8th Grade Academy @ 1:00 pm
	26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday—No School- Dismissal @ 11:20 both days
December	1-18	Galileo Benchmark Testing
	16 & 17	High School Final Exams—Half-Day
		High School dismissal @ 12:00 pm / 8th Grade Academy @ 1:00 pm
	18	End of 2nd Quarter
	21-1/1	Winter Break



\$200 can be deducted per individual



Tax Credit Donation

State law allows Arizonans to contribute up to \$400 to public schools for extracurricular activities, and then deduct that amount directly from their state income taxes through a tax credit.

Contributions must be post-marked by December 31 of the year to which you want to apply your tax credit.

Individuals and couples filing jointly may take advantage of this tax credit. A maximum of \$200 can be deducted per individual tax return, or couples filing a joint return may deduct a maximum of \$400.

You must have a receipt from your school to submit with your taxes.



You may visit the Combs High School Bookstore where a receipt will be provided, or you may visit the J.O. Combs District Web Site at http://jocombs.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=Tax_Credits.

Meet the Teachers

The Howler would like to feature a few high school and Academy teachers in each newsletter to help parents become better acquainted with the teaching staff at the school.

Matt Fish: Mr. Fish teaches Life Skills at Combs. He earned his B.A. in Communications at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. After playing professional basketball, he returned to school and earned master's degrees in education and business administration. Matt began his basketball career at UNC-W and was drafted by the NBA in 1992 to the Golden State Warriors. He played ten years of professional

basketball for the Nicks, Heat, Bullets, and Clippers.

Wendi Anderson: Mrs. Anderson teaches 9th and 10th grade English as well as journalism. This is her fifth year in the District, but she has been teaching for over twelve years. Mrs. Anderson has a master's degree in secondary education/English, and loves reading and writing. In fact, she has to limit her reading during the school year because otherwise she would neglect her other responsibilities.

Melissa Newbrey: Mrs. Newbrey received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and her Master's in Music from University of Nevada.

She currently teaches guitar at Combs, and has previous experience teaching middle school band and orchestra programs. She played the trumpet through high school and college, has two large dogs and loves to bicycle, run, swim, and cook pizza from scratch.

Melissa Williams: Ms. Williams is originally from Rhode Island and received two BA's from Rhode Island College; one in political science, and the other in history. She went to law school for a short period of time. Ms. Williams started teaching in the District at the middle school in 2005 and currently teaches World History and AP World History.

Eighth Grade Academy Teachers:

Jonathan Spray: Mr. Spray is currently in his second year teaching science at the Eighth Grade Academy. He was born in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Michigan state University. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Spray also coaches the 7th grade baseball and track teams. He loves to play soccer in his free time.

Alice Goodrick: Ms. Goodrick teaches 8th grade Family and Consumer

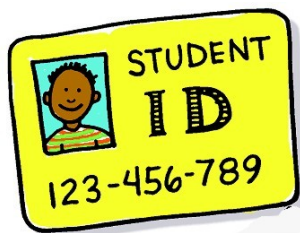
Sciences. Teaching is a second career for Ms. Goodrick. Previously, she worked as a Registered Dietitian in a hospital for 24 years. She always had a passion for students and a boss challenged me to pursue that passion by becoming a teacher.

Robert Laliberte: Mr. Laliberte has taught English for three and a half years. He graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in Elementary Education. Mr. L. states, "I find a passion in teaching, and I love every day I am able to educate the minds of our future." Mr. L. coaches the Golf Team, and tries to be

involved with extracurricular activities whenever he can.

Lauren Besich: Mrs. Besich teaches English at the 8th Grade Academy. As an Arizona native, she claims to have attended the best university under the sun, ASU. She currently resides in Tempe with her husband, Baldo and pet beta fish, Mitch. Traveling, eating, enjoying her pool, and reading are on her list of must-do's. She also tries to keep her brain working by completing crossword puzzles. What can she say? Words are her thing.

Student I.D. Cards



As a school safety precaution, students **MUST** carry their picture student I.D. card with them at all times.

Students without their I.D. cards will receive a disciplinary consequence from the school administration.

If a student needs to replace a lost or damaged I.D. card, they may do so in the school bookstore. Students will be charged \$5 for a replacement I.D. card.

Technology @ Combs

Heather Thomas (Combs High School Tech Support)

It has been a great start to the new school year here at Combs. From our new facilities, to schedules, and the extraordinary Technology that our students have here at Combs, things are now in place and students are ready to succeed. This month the students, staff and the District have embarked upon many new Technology projects.

J.O. Combs has implemented a website (PASS) Parental Access Support Systems which allows parents to view their students' progress and current grades. Each parent was given a student ID and password to access their student's records. This is a great tool for parents to monitor where their children stand academically without having to wait on progress reports. We encourage parents to use this site. Please visit www.Jocombs.org under "parent resources" for access.

Galileo testing was held this month for the first time this year. Everything went smoothly and quickly thanks to the Galileo coordinator Stacey Berklan (tech teacher for CHS) and the availability of computers provided for the students. This year we were able to test multiple classes at a time due to the significant increase in computer labs and student laptops that are available here at the High School. We have a total of 371 desktop computers made available for students along with 96 portable (wireless) laptops that can be used at any given time. This will contribute to the success of our students in all aspects of technology this year and for years to come.

In the classrooms, our Tech 1 & 2 classes, taught by Stacey Berklan, are currently working on several projects. In her Tech 1 class, students are working in Micro Type—a program used to develop typing skills. Tech 1 students have also begun to learn how to create and present a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. In Tech 2, students are working in Windows movie maker, learning how to create their own home-based movies. Students seem to enjoy doing these projects, and in this day and age, these have become essential skills.

On another note, Phil Poisson, another tech teacher here at the High School teaches a variety of classes including Web Design, Multimedia Communication, and Computer Applications. Currently, the Web Design class is using Adobe Dreamweaver, with which they are learning to create their own web pages and sites. His Multimedia class is also working on PowerPoint this month, while his Computer Applications class is working in Microsoft Word 2007. Along with the individual assignments each class is working on, Mr. Poisson also teaches students the basic mechanics of a computer and the multiple functions and design of a computer system.

New to our High School this year is Mr. Weidner. His TV Communications course here at Combs High seems to be a smashing hit with the students. The students are currently working on the production of a news show called "Call of the Wild." It will air on October 9. The purpose of this assignment is to produce and develop one of the best TV news shows in the state of Arizona that will contain announcements and news for our school and students.

Another new teacher here this year is Jim Kornelly, who teaches Photo Art 1. His students are currently working on photo basics with which they learn how to take quality pictures and edit them. Paul Schreel, another art teacher, is using the technology in his class to teach his students Adobe Photo Shop in which they learn a multitude of things such as editing, logos, etc.

There are many benefits that technology here at Combs High can provide for students. In a continued effort to stay up to date, our tech team for the J.O. Unified School District is continuously evaluating and testing new software and hardware, hoping to help maintain the outstanding level of Technology that is in our schools today.

Students in the school's TV Communications class are currently working on producing a news show that will be aired on October the 9th called "Call of the Wild".



Counseling Corner

"If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail."

YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

High School:

- Coach Mike Vezzosi 480-882-35549
Oversees last names: **A** through **K**
mvezzosi@jocombs.k12.az.us
- Dr. Melissa Valenzuela 480-882-3552
Oversees last names: **L** through **Z**
mvalenzuela@jocombs.k12.az.us

Eighth Grade Academy:

- Mrs. Renée Adolph 480-882-3555
radolph@jocombs.k12.az.us

COUNSELING SERVICES:

- ◆ **Academic Counseling:** assists with issues regarding classes, course schedules, credits
- ◆ **Educational Counseling:** assists with high school, college, and career planning, as well as registration, study skills, test-taking strategies and more.
- ◆ **Personal Counseling:** assists with social/personal issues related to home or school.

NOTE: School counselors do not provide ongoing therapeutic counseling services.

Career Center

Combs High School is proud to have its very own Career Center. The Career Center is located in the front office. For more information on how to utilize this resource, see Coach Vezzosi or Dr. Valenzuela.

Groups

Groups will start soon at the high school. Students may sign up with Dr. Valenzuela for:

Peer Mediation, Living with Loss, Growing Up, Anger Management, or ECO (Exercising Choices and Options). Groups will be held during Coyote Skills.

PSAT Testing

PSAT testing will be held October 17 at the High School. Please contact Coach Vezzosi for more information 480-882-3549.

Classroom Instruction

Counselors teach classroom units throughout the year on the following topics:

- School Safety
- High School Planning
- College Planning
- Career Planning
- Academic Success



East Valley Institute of Technology

The East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) adds to a student's academic instruction with hands-on learning provided by experienced professionals and excellent resources. By allowing students to earn elective credit in 35 occupation-specific programs, EVIT enhances the future of

every type of student.

EVIT is a public school district that serves students from ten East Valley school districts, including J.O. Combs. Students spend half their day at EVIT and the other half at their sending high school. Because EVIT is a public school, all 10th, 11th, and 12th grade

students meeting class prerequisites can attend free of charge.

Interested students and parents may contact the school counselor to see how this program could fit into their schedule. Information can also be obtained at www.evit.com/index.html.

The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act

As a family experiencing transitional housing, you have the right to:

- Continue your child’s education at the school they attended prior to becoming homeless (their school of origin).
- Enroll your child in any public school that other students are eligible to attend, from the same attendance area.
- Have your child enroll in and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed with being separated from other students.
- Receive educational service for which your child is eligible including transportation services, participation in meal

programs, referrals to health-care/immunization services and other appropriate services.

Please call the district Mc Kinney Vento Liaison, M. Myers 480-987-5304.

Notificación Parental

Educación de Niño y Juventud sin Hogar Mc Kinney –Vento 2001 Acta de Asistencia Educativa Para “Familias Sin Hogar”

Ofrece los servicios educativos para los niños de familias en la transición a hogar permanente.

Cuando una familia que atraviesa una situación de no tener donde vivir usted tiene el derecho por su niños a:

- Seguir asistiendo a la escuela que asistieron antes de llegar a quedarse sin hogar o a la última escuela que asistieron si esto es su deseo y es práctico.
- Inscribir a su niño en cualquier escuela pública que otros estudiantes son elegibles atender, de la misma área de la asistencia.
- Inscribir su niño y tener oportunidad completa e igual de tener éxito sin la separación de otros estudiantes.
- Reciba los servicios educativos para su niño que es elegible, y inclusive servicios de transporte, la participación en programas de comida, las referencias a servicios de vacunación, asistencias medica y otros servicios apropiados.

Contacta el enlace local del distrito escolar: M. Myers 480-987-5304

McKinney Vento offers educational services for the children of families in transition to permanent housing.

J.O.Combs District

Food and Clothing Bank

<p>Open TUESDAYS</p> <p>301 E. Combs Road</p> <p>(Proof of residency required for newcomers)</p> <p>9 am – 11:30 and 1 pm – 4 pm</p> <p>Telephone: 480-987-5304</p> <p>CLOSED SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</p>	<p>DISTRICTO J.O. COMBS BANCO DE COMIDA Y ROPA</p> <p>Abriremos Martes 301 E. Combs Rd.</p> <p>(Necesita su prueba De domicilio) 9 am - 11:30am y 1 pm - 4pm</p> <p>Telefono: 480-987-5304</p> <p>Cerramos en los días que las escuelas cierran</p>
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Free/Reduced Meal Applications

Free or Reduced Price Applications can be picked up from the office or the cafeteria at each school in the district. Please allow ten days to process applications.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available to families who believe that they may qualify. If your family chooses to apply, please return the completed form to the school office. You will be notified by mail of your child's status. Until notification, you must provide your child with a lunch or lunch money.

Only complete one application per family. The information you give will be used to determine or prove your child's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals. This information may also be used for other state or federally funded school benefits.

Factors considered in the application process are household size and total household income.

For more information, you can visit the district website at <http://www.jocombs.org/>. First, follow the Parent Resource link, then go to School Menu.

“The greatest difference between a memorable and unmemorable education is not the school, but rather the people you meet there-in.”

CLUB News

Comic Art Club Fundraiser

The Comic Art Club is selling See's candy and will have a pie throwing contest to raise money for a field trip to the Phoenix Anime and Comic Convention in October. Club sponsor Joshua Wolff and club members thank everyone for their support.



craft. They will be building the set for our show. We are starting our Sees Candy drive October 10th.

Don't forget those little gifts you need to purchase for the holidays. Prices range from \$5.00 up.

Club Sponsor Colleen Brown may be contacted at 882-1780.

Coyote Theatre

Coyote Theatre is off to a great start. The club just had their 2nd Annual Lip Sync contest with over 200 in attendance.

December 10 & 11 will be “Midsummer Night’s Dream. Ms. Kendra Harris is providing the stage, lights, lighting trees, sound and audio equipment, curtains and computerized lighting and sound boards. She is a skilled lighting technician and designer from Las Vegas. During that week she will be training our students on all the equipments, setting up and tearing down. She is donating her time and materials. The club is in need of hammers, glue guns, power screw guns and any other tools you could donate to stage

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club sponsored the High School's first dance Friday, September 25. The theme was “Howllywood” and participants were encouraged to come dressed like Hollywood's best! Club sponsor Dustin Hemsath thanks everyone who helped to make the event such a success.

Student Council

HIGH SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that the following students will serve as our student council officers for the 2009- 2010 school year.

Student Body Officers:

Mayra Gutierrez, James Cardiel, Clarissa Aguilar, Jennifer Tran, Daniel Garcia, Kylie Caisley, Katelyn Mick

Sophomore Class Officers:

David Hernandez, Maya Mazzini, Mathew Mender, Anthony Ramirez

Freshman Class Officers:

Diedre LaBorde, Jonathan Snyder, Heather Blahak, Joey Salsa, Christina Bustamante

Advisor: Tana Whitlock

WHATS HAPPENING?: Student Council and Black Student Union BooGrams went on sale October 26. The Council is planning a fall assembly in November. Winners of the Combs Couch raffle got into the football game for free and were served refreshments by student council members. The Sophomore Class is also planning a Winter Formal, scheduled for December 4. The Candy Sales fundraiser was a huge success in September.

EIGHTH GRADE ACADEMY

Representatives: Garret Settle, Damaris Martinez, Leanna Draper, Caprianna Cruz, Melinda Ruiz, Dejah Hubbel, Shannen Clark, Ashton Munson, Josue Olivarez, Chris Adams, Ty Driggs, Karen Perez-Romero; Treasurer: Danitza Solomon; Historian: Andrea Matus; Secretary: Madison Jourdan; Vice President: Ethan Powell; President: Khayla Munir

Advisor: Robert Laliberte

H1N1 (aka Swine Flu) Virus Update

September 2009

Dear Parents:

The H1N1 or “Swine” Flu remains a global health concern. National health experts are predicting a higher than normal outbreak of flu this coming season. It is essential that we are vigilant in our efforts to keep our school community and your home environment flu-free.

You play an important role in how the flu will affect our school and ultimately the health of our community. By taking the following precautions, you can help reduce the impact of the flu in our community:

- **Teach your children good hygiene (we will be doing the same at school):** This means teaching them how to cover coughs/sneezes with their elbows, arm, sleeve or a tissue when available, frequent soap and water hand washing habits and to keep their hands away from their face. Please set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items:** Remind them not to share drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu:** Symptoms of the flu include fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep your children home when they are sick:** When a child comes to school sick, he/she can infect classmates at amazing rates. If your child has a temperature please keep your child at home until 24 hours have passed, fever-free, without the aid of such medications as Tylenol or Motrin. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may become infected.
- **Do not use products containing aspirin to treat the flu:** This can create a condition called Reyes syndrome when aspirin is used for a viral infection. Please read labels on medication carefully.

We are monitoring both the H1N1 and seasonal flu closely and will be reporting any abnormal absentee rates in our schools to the Pinal County Department of Public Health. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. Further information is available at www.cdc.gov/flu.

Please contact the Health Office staff at your child’s school should you need further assistance in dealing with this emerging public health threat. Your willingness to partner with us in preventing wide-spread illness throughout our community is appreciated. Parents will ultimately make the largest impact on the health of families, schools and the community.

Sincerely,

Health Services Department, J.O. Combs Unified School District

8th Grade Academy Student/Parent Handbook

Organization can be a real challenge for students as they acclimate themselves to the six-teacher schedules of the middle school program.

Organization is the key to keeping students on top of the many assignments and expectations that come with a middle school and high school schedule.

The J.O. Combs Eighth Grade

Academy has provided a valuable tool for helping students accomplish just that.

All students were issued a 2009-2010 Student/Parent Handbook in August or when they registered.

This spiral bound notebook not only describes the school’s expectations for students, but also provides a scheduling calendar with which students can write down

assignments.

If your student is having difficulties remembering his/her assignments or due-dates, encourage him or her to use this valuable resource.

Parents themselves may want to check this handbook on a regular basis to monitor student work.

“The successful person is the individual who forms the habit of doing what the failing person doesn't like to do.”
- Donald Riggs

Athletics

Arizona Interscholastic Association Rules of Eligibility

- Parent Permission**—Any Combs High School student who wishes to compete in athletic contests with other schools must first take home an athletic card that must be signed by the student's parents/legal guardians, giving permission for the student to participate.
- Physical Examination**—No student shall be eligible to represent his/her high school in any practice or athletic contest if a physical examination card is not on file with the Athletic Director. The physical examination card must be signed by a M.D., a D.O. or a P.N.P. and include notification that, in the opinion of the examining physician, the athlete is fully able to compete in athletic contests.
- Age Limit**—If the athlete becomes 19 years of age after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If the athlete becomes 19 years of age on or before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year. A certified copy of the birth certificate shall be required of all contestants.
- Scholarship**—A student must have received a passing grade in the preceding nine weeks of school in each of five or more subjects. Therefore, the athlete must be enrolled in and passing a minimum of five (5) classes (not including study hall; only credit-earning classes can be counted as one of the five (5) classes for eligibility.) Exception: A student in their seventh or eighth semester of enrollment, meeting all graduation requirements, must be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) courses.
- Absences**—In cases where a student is out of school for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days for reasons other than the disabling illness of the athlete or a member of their immediate family, the athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the semester.
- Competition on only one school team**—Any student playing on any team other than their high school's team during the school season of the same sport, shall be barred from further interscholastic participation in that same sport for the same season.
- Eight Semester Rule**—No student will compete in any interscholastic contest who has been enrolled in grades 9-12 inclusive for more than eight semesters.



For further clarification of AIA Rules of Eligibility, you may contact Combs High School's Athletic Director, Chris Hughes or visit the AIA website at <http://www.aiaonline.org/schools/index.php>

Adversity causes some people to break; and others to break records.
- William Ward

Combs High School Booster Club

Please join us in supporting the wide variety of activities at Combs High School by becoming a Member of the Booster Club.

Booster participation is essential to support the many organizations at CHS.

If you are interested in supporting Combs in this way, please complete a Membership Application and include a

check for \$10 per Booster Member. Check payable to: Combs High School Booster Club

Applications are available by following the athletics link at: www.combscoyotes.org

Contact Information:
mathewfairbanks@yahoo.com
480-272-0691

Coyote High School Sports



Our Coyotes are showing great potential with their skill and outstanding sportsman-

ship! Get ready to be amazed by the talent from this group.

We're excited about our coaches and plan to have a full-blown high school sports program that will

both thrill and entertain you.

Some studies show that kids that are active in their high school through sports and other activities do better in school and are happy, well-adjusted, and contributing members of their communities.

Our athletes won't be the only thing to amaze you. Come and check out our great, new sports facilities.

Fall/Winter Sports:

- Frosh and JV Football

- Frosh and JV Girls' Basketball
- Frosh and JV Boys' Basketball
- Golf

For more information on Combs High School sports, please contact the Athletic Director, Chris Hughes at 480-882-3550.

GO COYOTES!

Check out
Combs High School Spirit
Wear at
www.combscoyotes.org/football/rostercoachandvideos.htm

Cougar 8th Grade Sports

The Cougar Athletic Program is a great way for students to show school spirit, make new friends, and exercise their hearts and muscles. Please join us wherever you're comfortable. Combs Middle School is active in both boys' and girls' competitive sports programs including flag football, track, volleyball, cheer, baseball, softball, and basket-

ball. We're proud of our athletes for their hard work and good sportsmanship.

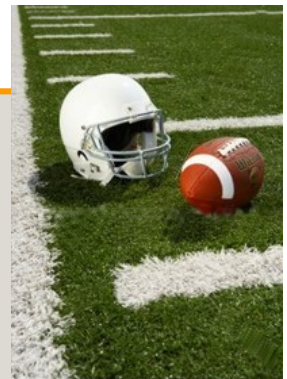
Any student who has a current physical on file can try out for our traveling and intramural sports teams. The sports physical must be completed **every school year** in order to be eligible to play. We look forward to another successful season.

GO COUGARS!

Fall/Winter Sports:

- Co-Ed Track and Field
- Girls' Softball
- Boys' Baseball
- Girls' Basketball

For more information, please contact the Middle School Athletic Director, Melissa Lebeau at



School Bus Behavior

A school bus is part of the total school program and all school rules apply.

Riding a school bus is a privilege that can be lost through unacceptable behavior.

Please remind students that the same expectations stressed in the Six Pillars of Character apply on the bus as well:

- Trustworthiness and Responsibility: Following bus rules and instructions of the driver.
- Respect: Treat the driver and other students with dignity and honor.
- Fairness and Caring: Share your seat with others. Wait your turn.
- Citizenship: Take care of the bus. Stay seated until the bus stops. Keep the bus stop and bus litter-free.



Riding the school bus is a privilege that can be lost through unacceptable behavior.

Responsibilities for a Successful School Year

We are looking forward to a successful 2009-2010 school year.

To this end, the members of the Combs faculty will, to the best of our abilities and available resources, work to:

- Provide students with competent, meaningful instruction in relevant core and elective areas.
- Provide students with a

safe and conducive learning environment.

- Communicate pertinent student performance information to the home.
- Assist students in school-related special needs situations.

Likewise, all students have a responsibility to:

- Respect the rights of others to study and learn.

- Attend school daily unless ill or legally excused.

- Be on time for all classes.

- Complete all in-class and homework assignments, and meet deadlines.

- Come to class with necessary books and materials.

- Respect public property, and carefully use and return all materials and equipment.



Members of the J.O. Combs faculty look forward to being educational partners with you and your child this school year.

Harassment/Bullying/Hazing

Harassment, bullying and hazing of students are prohibited on campuses, during school-related activities or circumstances, and when traveling to and from school. Students should also be aware that verbal insults and attacks via e-mail, text messaging or Internet social networks that substantially hinder another student's right to attend school or participate in school activities constitute harassment and bullying. Accordingly, students and parents should be aware that Internet communications that cause problems between students on campus will be dealt with as a serious student discipline matter.

Harassment and bullying mean any severe or persis-

tent physical or psychological abuse of a student by means of physical threats or assaults, verbal threats or insults, or other hostile or degrading acts. Harassment and bullying may include acts that are inflicted for no apparent reason, or because of a student's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Harassment and bullying also include any type of sexual harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome written, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may, in certain circumstances, constitute sexual harassment.

Hazing means forcing a stu-

dent to risk or suffer physical or mental harm or degradation to join, participate in or remain in a school-affiliated organization or activity.

If a student believes that he or she has been harassed, bullied or hazed, the student should report the behavior to a teacher, counselor, school nurse or school administrator. Likewise, all school employees are obligated to report such incidents. All reports of harassment, bullying and hazing are confidential and will be investigated.

Students who engage in harassment, bullying or hazing will be subject to disciplinary action. Sexual harassment that meets the legal definition of sexual abuse will be referred to police, as required by law.

Child Find and Identification Procedures

It is the J.O. Combs Districts' responsibility to inform the general public and all parents within our boundaries of our responsibility to make available special education services for students with disabilities aged 3 through 21 years and how to access those services. In addition, we have a responsibility to provide information regarding early intervention services for children birth through 2 years.

We are responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating all children with disabilities, including children aged 3 through 21, and for referring children from birth through 2 years of age to Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) for evaluation and appropriate services.

We are also responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) which includes special education and related services to children with disabilities at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge to the parents.

For all new students to the district, the classroom teacher will complete screening

activities within 45 days of enrollment.

The teacher will look at the child's ability in the areas of academics, vision, hearing, adaptive, communication, social/emotional, and motor skills. If any concerns are noted, the child may be referred for additional help.

For any student attending a J.O. Combs School District school OR attending a private school within our boundaries

OR any student that is home schooled that may be suspected of having a disability, the procedure for referral is as follows:

- a. A written request to the school. This written request should contain the reason for the referral, areas or issues of concern, reason for suspecting disability, and any previous interventions that have been attempted to date.
- b. Contact information of the person referring this request should be sent to the school psychologist at the local high school or the J.O. Combs School District, Instructional Services, 301 E. Combs Rd., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140.

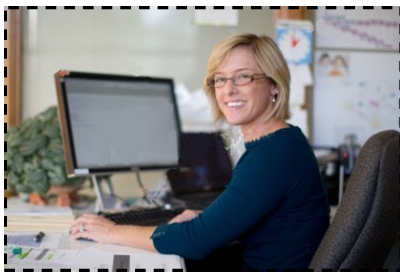
Children birth through 2 years of age who

are receiving early intervention services and will be participating in preschool programs for children with disabilities will be assured of a smooth transition into that program. We will ensure that:

- 1. Transition conferences for children aged 2 years 6 months to 2 years, 9 months will be held;
- 2. By the child's 3rd birthday an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed and implemented; and
- 3. For the child who turns three during the summer, the IEP team will determine the date for services to begin including eligibility for Extended School Year (ESY) services.

If you have concerns about a child you know please contact the District Instructional Services Department at 987-5308, or your school's counseling department or special education department for additional information.

Web Access to Newsletter



It is our hope that the *Coyote Howler* will continue to be an effective vehicle for getting information home to parents and guardians.

We would like to announce that readers may also access this

issue and all subsequent newsletters by visiting the school's website at: www.combscoyotes.org.

In our efforts to conserve paper (for both the forests and school budget), we will only be sending future newsletters home in the mail to those individuals requesting to receive a hard copy of the document.

If you wish to continue receiving the *Coyote Howler* through the U.S. Mail, please complete and return the form to the right.

I understand the *Coyote Howler* will be available on the Internet, but would like to request continued mailings of the newsletter to my residence.

Reader's Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Please return this form to the Combs High School front office no later than Friday, November 20.



Reminders

STUDENT SCHOOL DRESS CODE:

It is the belief of the J.O. Combs School District that school pride, morale and image are influenced by the general appearance of our students. Additionally, the District expects student dress and grooming to reflect high standards of personal conduct so that each student's attire promotes a positive, safe, and healthy atmosphere within our school.

Students and their parents/guardians have the responsibility to be aware of the school's specific dress code and to conform to these requirements.

On campus, the faculty, staff and administration have the responsibility to interpret and enforce this policy.

1. Sagging is not allowed, and the waistband of the pants, shorts or skirt must meet the bottom of the shirt or top at all times. Pants should not drag excessively on the ground.
2. Shorts and skirts may not be shorter than where the student's pointer finger touches the leg when the arm is hanging straight down.
3. Pants, shorts or skirts must cover underwear at all times.
4. Wallet chains with a maximum length of 10" are not permitted.
5. Attire or accessories which advertise, display and/or promote any drug, alcohol or tobacco, sexual activity, violence, disrespect and/or bigotry towards any group or person are not allowed.
6. Body piercing that is a safety hazard and/or hinders classroom performance is not allowed.
7. Shoes must be worn at all times according to Arizona State Law. For safety, shoes must have an outdoor sole.
8. Sunglasses may not be worn in school buildings.
9. NOT PERMITTED: strapless tops, tube tops, racer backs, halter tops, or one-strap tops. No bustiers or tops with spaghetti straps. Straps must be at least two fingers in width or 1- 3/4" wide, coverings all undergarments. No see-through shirts or necklines that expose any cleavage are permitted. Students may not layer inappropriate shirts to attempt to make an inappropriate one appropriate.
10. Sleepwear worn as outerwear is not permitted.

Consequences: any student violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, after-school detention, in-school suspension, parent conference and short-term or long-term suspension.

Cell Phones, Electronic/Digital Devices

Keeping J.O. Combs High School classrooms places of rigor and relevance creates the need for changes in policy from time to time. Due to the increase in classroom interruptions, incidents of academic dishonesty and reported thefts, the following items are NOT allowed on campus:

- iPods•portable DVD players•personal laptops•cameras•video recorders•mp3 players•laserpointers•headsets•paging

devices•CD players or digital music devices•any gaming device

In addition, CELL PHONES MY NOT BE SEEN OR USED during the school day including passing and lunch. Students may possess cell phones for use before school and after the school day ONLY; but they must be turned off and kept out of sight during school hours. Use is interpreted as using any cell phone function or feature, not just the sending or receiving of calls. Stu-

dents may pick up confiscated cell phones at the end of the day in the administration office.

The student bears full responsibility for safeguarding their cell phone. Lost or stolen cell phones or devices are the responsibility of the student. It is strongly recommended that any electronic devices not be brought to campus.

